(c) As reported by AIIH and PH, the consumption of Arsenic contaminated water causes diseases and disorders which have various manifestations including skin cancer, cancer of vital organs and gangrene etc.

Drying up of rivers

†2242. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA:
SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN TIWARI:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that forty per cent of the small rivers in the country are on the verge of drying up and some of them have already turned extinct;

(b) if so, whether Government is working on any effective plan to protect and restore the rivers, considered to be source of lives; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VINCENT PALA): (a) Analysis of available river flow data do not indicate that the small rivers are not the verge of drying up. Further, there are no information about small rivers becoming extinct.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Walson Water Project

†2243. SHRI SAMAN PATHAK: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made in the work on Walson Water Project in Darjeeling; and

(b) whether the work on this project is expected to be completed within the scheduled time?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VINCENT PALA): (a) and (b) As per information available in this Ministry, there is no Major or Medium irrigation project under execution with the name Walson in West Bengal. However, as informed by the Ministry of Urban Development there is one scheme namely Darjeeling Drinking Water Project of Balasan in West Bengal. An expenditure of Rs. 16.44 crore has been incurred on this project till 31.3.2008. The project is being executed by the State Government of West Bengal. As such, the completion of the project depends upon the Budget outlays provided by State Government and priority assigned by the Project Authorities for its execution.

Pay scales in N.P.C.C.

†2244. SHRI BHAGWATI SINGH: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(a) whether it is a fact that all officers of National Projects Construction Corporation (NPCC) are getting the latest pay scales and other facilities;

(b) if so, then, whether it is also a fact that the workers of NPCC Ltd. are still getting the old pay scales and facilities fixed in 1989;

(c) if so, whether Government will take any effective measures to iron out this pay scale related anomaly between officers and workers; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VINCENT PALA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise in view of the answer to (a) above.

Treat to riverside villages

2245. MS. SUSHILA TIRIYA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that several riverside villages in Orissa are facing threat of being wiped out;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the number of villagers that are being affected; and

(d) the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VINCENT PALA): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. As informed by the State Government of Orissa, several villages located in the vicinity of different rivers are acting threat of damages due to bank erosion, bank sliding, flood water entering into the villages and inundation etc.

(c) The details regarding the villagers affected are maintained by the State Government.

(d) A state sector scheme namely, "Flood Management Programme (FMP)" has been approved in 'in principle' by the Cabinet in its meeting held on 02.11.2007 at an estimated cost of Rs. 8000 crore for Eleventh Plan period for providing central assistance to the States. Under the FMP Scheme, a total of 69 flood management/anti-erosion/drainage development schemes amounting to Rs. 163.63 crore from Orissa have been included and 1st instalment of central assistance amounting to Rs. 45.90 crore has been released to the state in July, 2008.

Watching of Kosi river through satellite

2246. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state: